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PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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EUROPEAN ELM SCALE

The European elm scale (Gossyparia spuria Modeer) is found in the crevices of the bark wherever slight protection is afforded on the twigs, branches and trunk of the elm. They are very conspicuous because of the white wooly-like material surrounding the body. A large amount of sweet liquid called honey-dew, is excreted by the insect in summer time and this often covers the lower leaves, trunk and grass underneath the tree. A sooty fungus lives on this honey-dew and often becomes so thick as to interfere with the proper functioning of the leaves.

While this insect apparently does not injure the tree to a great degree, there is no doubt that a severe infestation will weaken the tree to such an extent that other insects and plant diseases might easily cause the death of the tree.

Control.--During the late winter or early spring a thorough spraying with a miscible spray oil, will destroy this pest. Apply the spray on a bright day when the temperature is above forty degrees. Do not apply in such quantities that the spray material will run down the trunk and collect in the soil about the roots. Apply as a mist or fine spray so that all portions will be covered.